

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

JOHN DOE,

Plaintiff,

V.

JENNIFER LYNN GROSS, *a.k.a.*  
JENNIFER STENGAARD GROSS,

Defendant.

No. 1:23-cv-06325 (JPC)

## **STIPULATED CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and among the parties hereto (collectively, the “Parties” and individually a “Party”), through their undersigned counsel, that the following provisions of this Protective Order (the “Order”) shall govern disclosure and use by the parties of all documents, testimony, exhibits, interrogatory answers, responses to requests for admission, and any other materials and information disclosed or provided in the above-referenced action.

## CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

1. With respect to information of any kind produced or disclosed in the course of discovery in this action (“Discovery Material”) that a person has designated as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” pursuant to this Protective Order, no person subject to this Protective Order may disclose such “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” Discovery Material to anyone else except as this Protective Order expressly permits.

2. The Party or person producing or disclosing Discovery Material (“Producing Party”) may designate as “Confidential” only the portion of such material that it reasonably and in good faith believes consists of information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for a protective order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), including that the material may cause the Receiving Party annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense.

3. The Producing Party may designate as “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” the portion of such material that it reasonably and in good faith believes consists of personally sensitive information or items, disclosure of which to another Party or non-Party would create a substantial risk of embarrassment, humiliation, or emotional distress that could not be avoided by less restrictive means.

4. Hard Copy Documents. With respect to the Confidential portion of any Discovery Material other than deposition transcripts and exhibits, the Producing Party or its counsel may designate such portion as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” by stamping or otherwise clearly marking as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” the protected portion in a manner that will not interfere with legibility.

5. Electronically Produced Documents. When documents are produced in electronic form, the Receiving Party shall print and use electronic versions of documents in such a manner that the confidentiality designations are readily apparent to one viewing the file. The Receiving Party shall ensure that all copies of electronic documents that are used in depositions, hearings, filings, and otherwise are clearly designated with the appropriate confidentiality designations.

6. Native and/or Other Electronic Materials. All Discovery Material not reduced to hard copy, tangible, or physical form or that cannot be conveniently designated as set forth in

Paragraphs 4 or 5 shall be designated by informing the Receiving Party of the designation in writing, by embedding the designation in the file name, and/or by providing the designation in the load file or other similar database, table or chart accompanying said production. To the extent the Receiving Party subsequently generates any permitted copies of this information, whether electronic or hard copy, it shall ensure that all such copies are clearly designated with the appropriate confidentiality designations.

7. A Producing Party or its counsel may designate deposition exhibits or portions of deposition transcripts as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” either by: (a) indicating on the record during the deposition that a question calls for information that is “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only,” in which case the reporter will bind the transcript of the designated testimony in a separate volume and mark it as “[Confidential or Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only] Information Governed by Protective Order”; or (b) notifying the reporter and all counsel of record, in writing, within 30 days after a deposition has concluded, of the specific pages and lines of the transcript that are to be designated as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only,” in which case all counsel receiving the transcript will be responsible for marking the copies of the designated transcript in their possession or under their control as directed by the Producing Party or that person’s counsel. During the 30-day period following a deposition, all Parties will treat the entire deposition transcript as if it had been designated “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only.”

8. The provisions of this Protective Order with respect to “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” Discovery Material shall not apply to information that: (a) was public knowledge before the filing of this Action without fault of the Receiving Party and not in violation of this Protective Order; (b) is lawfully acquired in good faith from a third party not

subject to this Protective Order, such third party being lawfully in possession of it and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Producing Party; (c) was lawfully possessed by the Receiving Party prior to first receipt of the material from the Producing Party, provided such information was not received directly, or indirectly, from the Producing Party and/or covered by an applicable privilege or other protection from disclosure; (d) is discovered independently by the Receiving Party by means that do not constitute a violation of this Protective Order; or (e) was submitted to any governmental entity by the Producing Party without request for confidential treatment.

9. Any Party who objects to any designation of confidentiality may at any time before the trial of this action serve upon counsel for the Producing Party a written notice stating with particularity the grounds of the objection. If the Parties cannot reach agreement promptly, counsel for all affected Parties will address their dispute to this Court in accordance with Section 5(C) of this Court's Individual Practices.

### **LIMITATIONS ON DISCLOSURE**

10. Where a Producing Party has designated Discovery Material as "Confidential," other persons subject to this Protective Order may disclose such information only to the following persons:

- a. the Parties to this action;
- b. counsel retained specifically for this action, including any paralegal, clerical, or other assistant that such outside counsel employs and assigns to this matter;
- c. outside vendors or service providers (such as copy-service providers or document-management consultants) that counsel retain and assign to this matter, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;

- d. any consultants (such as professional jury or trial consultants) that counsel retain and assign, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;
- e. any mediator or arbitrator that the Parties engage in this matter or that this Court appoints, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;
- f. any witness who counsel for a Party in good faith believes may be called to testify at trial or deposition in this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;
- g. any person a Party retains to serve as an expert witness or otherwise provide specialized advice to counsel in connection with this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;
- h. stenographers engaged to transcribe depositions the Parties conduct in this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto; and
- i. this Court, including any appellate court, its support personnel, and court reporters.

11. Before disclosing any “Confidential” Discovery Material to any person referred to in subparagraphs 10(c), 10(d), 10(e), 10(f), 10(g), or 10(h) above, counsel must provide a copy of this Protective Order to such person, who must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto stating that he or she has read this Protective Order and agrees to be bound by its terms.

12. Where a Producing Party has designated Discovery Material as “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only,” other persons subject to this Protective Order may disclose such information only to the following persons:

- a. the outside counsel of record in this action for the party receiving the Discovery Material (“Receiving Party”), as well as employees of said outside counsel of record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;
- b. in-house counsel of a Party;
- c. this Court, including any appellate court, its support personnel, and court reporters;
- d. any persons identified in subparagraphs 10(c), 10(d), 10(e), 10(f), 10(g), or 10(h) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;

13. Plaintiff’s Identity. Plaintiff has filed this case under a pseudonym. For any Discovery Material filed in the public record, the Producing Party shall redact the name of Plaintiff, and replace it with the pseudonym if possible. Any such document shall be designated as “Confidential.” For the purposes of this Action, Plaintiff’s true identity may be disclosed to the following persons:

- a. the outside counsel of record in this action for the party, as well as employees of said outside counsel of record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;
- b. in-house counsel of a Party;
- c. this Court, including any appellate court, its support personnel, and court reporters;

d. any persons identified in subparagraphs 10(c), 10(d), 10(e), 10(f), 10(g), or 10(h) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;

14. Any Party who requests additional limits on disclosure, may at any time before the trial of this action serve upon counsel for the recipient Parties a written notice stating with particularity the grounds of the request. If the Parties cannot reach agreement promptly, counsel for all affected Parties will address their dispute to this Court in accordance with Section 5(C) of this Court's Individual Practices.

15. Recipients of "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential — Attorneys' Eyes Only" Discovery Material under this Protective Order may use such material solely for the prosecution and defense of this action and any appeals thereto, and not for any other purpose or in any other litigation proceeding. Nothing contained in this Protective Order, however, will affect or restrict the rights of any Party with respect to its own documents or information produced in this action.

#### **INADVERTENT OR IMPROPER DISCLOSURE**

16. If at any time before the trial of this action a Producing Party realizes that it should have designated as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential — Attorneys' Eyes Only" some portion(s) of Discovery Material that it previously produced without limitation, the Producing Party may so designate such material by so apprising all prior recipients in writing. Thereafter, this Court and all persons subject to this Protective Order will treat such designated portion(s) of the Discovery Material as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential — Attorneys' Eyes Only."

17. Nothing contained in this Protective Order will be construed as: (a) a waiver by a Party or person of its right to object to any discovery request; (b) a waiver of any privilege or protection; or (c) a ruling regarding the admissibility at trial of any document, testimony, or other evidence.

18. Each person who has access to Discovery Material designated as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” pursuant to this Protective Order must take all due precautions to prevent the unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of such material.

19. If any Discovery Material is improperly disclosed to any person other than in a manner authorized by this Protective Order, the Party responsible for the disclosure or knowledgeable of such disclosure, upon discovery of the disclosure, shall (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Protective Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Non-Disclosure Agreement” that is attached hereto as an exhibit.

#### **PRIVILEGE AND WORK PRODUCT**

20. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B), if information subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege, work-product protection, or any other applicable claim of privilege or protection is inadvertently or unintentionally produced, such production shall in no way prejudice or otherwise constitute a waiver of, or estoppel as to, any claim of privilege or protection for such information. Upon request by the Producing Party, the Receiving Party shall promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has; must not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved; must take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the Party disclosed it before being notified; and may promptly present the information to the Court under seal for a determination of the claim. The Producing Party must preserve the information until the claim is resolved. Nothing in this paragraph shall prejudice the right of any Party to seek discovery of communications, documents, and things to which a claim of privilege has been made.



21. Drafts of reports of testifying experts, and reports and other written materials, including drafts, of consulting experts, shall not be discoverable. Such materials shall be treated as attorney work product for the purposes of this case and Protective Order.

### **COURT FILINGS**

22. All “Confidential” or “Highly-Confidential Attorney’s Eyes Only” Discovery Material and all portions of pleadings, motions or other papers filed with the Court that disclose such Discovery Material shall be filed under seal with the Court pursuant to Section 4(B) of this Court’s Individual Practices, and kept under seal until further order of the Court.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

23. Nothing in this Protective Order will prevent any Party from producing any “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” Discovery Material in its possession in response to a lawful subpoena or other compulsory process, or if required to produce by law or by any government agency having jurisdiction, provided that such Party gives written notice to the Producing Party as soon as reasonably possible, and if permitted by the time allowed under the request, at least 10 days before any disclosure. Upon receiving such notice, the Producing Party will bear the burden to oppose compliance with the subpoena, other compulsory process, or other legal notice if the Producing Party deems it appropriate to do so.

In the event a discovery request would require the production of any document or information that is subject to an obligation of confidentiality to a non-party, the Party that received the request shall disclose the existence of the requested documents or information to the requesting Party, but shall not be required to immediately produce the documents or information. Instead, the would-be Producing Party must provide the non-party with written notice as soon as reasonably possible. The notice must state that the requested documents or information will be produced subject to this Protective Order unless the non-party seeks a protective order from the Court within fifteen (15)

calendar days of receiving notice. This Protective Order must be appended to the notice. The non-party may require the designation of the requested documents as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only.” If no protective order is sought by the non-party, the documents may be produced in response to a proper discovery request. Nothing in this Protective Order will relieve any party of any obligations of confidentiality or non-use that may have arisen by operation of law or by prior agreement.

#### **FINAL DISPOSITION OF THIS ACTION**

24. Within 60 days of the final disposition of this action — including all appeals — all recipients of “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” Discovery Material must either return it — including all copies thereof — to the Producing Party, or, upon permission of the Producing Party, destroy such material — including all copies thereof. In either event, by the 60-day deadline, the recipient must certify its return or destruction by submitting a written certification to the Producing Party that affirms that it has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, or other forms of reproducing or capturing any of the “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only.” Notwithstanding this provision, the attorneys that the Parties have specifically retained for this action may retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, transcripts, expert reports, legal memoranda, correspondence, or attorney work product, even if such materials contain “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only.” Any such archival copies that contain or constitute “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” Discovery Material remain subject to this Protective Order.

25. This Protective Order will survive the termination of the litigation and will continue to be binding upon all persons to whom “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” Discovery Material is produced or disclosed.

26. This Court will retain jurisdiction over all persons subject to this Protective Order to the extent necessary to enforce any obligations arising hereunder or to impose sanctions for any contempt thereof.

**SO STIPULATED AND AGREED.**

By: /s/ Caroline H. Miller  
Caroline H. Miller

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Date: October 18, 2024  
New York, New York



HON. JOHN P. CRONAN  
United States District Judge

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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Plaintiff,

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JENNIFER LYNN GROSS, *a.k.a.*

JENNIFER STENGAARD GROSS,

Defendant.

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No. 1:23-cv-06325 (JPC)

**NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have read and understand the Protective Order in this action governing the non-disclosure of those portions of Discovery Material that have been designated as “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only.”

I agree that I will not disclose such “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential — Attorneys’ Eyes Only” Discovery Material to anyone other than for purposes of this litigation and that at the conclusion of the litigation I will return all Discovery Material to the Party or attorney from which I received it. I also agree that I am submitting myself to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York for the purpose of any issue or dispute arising hereunder and that my willful violation of any term of the Protective Order could subject me to punishment for contempt of Court.

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Dated: